Pricing of life saving drugs

†2916. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations made by the task force constituted under Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen to consider the measures for providing life saving drugs at affordable prices;

(b) if so, the details of major recommendations made by the task force alongwith the decisions taken thereon;

(c) by when a new pharmaceutical policy is likely to be formulated/ enforced, on the basis of these recommendations; and

(d) the number of new drugs that would be lised or de-listed in the various schedules of drug prices control order in the event of implementation of these recommendatons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. Some of the salient recommendations of Task Force are, that Price Controls should be imposed on the 'essentiality' of the drug and not on the basis of turnover and it should be applied only to formulations and not to bulk drugs. Some of the other major recommendations of Task Force are to promote generic drugs, to encourage public health facilities, to revive the Public Sector Enterprises in the manufacture of drugs, to provide fiscal incentives in R&D activities in drugs, to provide financial support for implementation of Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, to enact Drugs and Threapeutics (Regulation) Act, to establish a National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics (NADT), to establish price negotiation process for new patented drugs, to streamline the bulk procurement regime, to exempt the excise duty, customs duty and other levies on cancer and anti HIV/AIDS drugs, to establish the state Illness Funds in the States/Union Territories for BPL families, to reduce the excise duty on drugs from 16 to 8%, to enhance the exemption limit of SSI units from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crores, to establish a Settlement

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Commission which is authorized to settle the disputed overcharged amount from the pharma companies.

The recommendation of the Task Force are being examined for consideration in the New National Pharmaceutical Policy.

The draft of the new policy is presently being finalized. It is difficult to specify any time frame for this.

As per the recommendation of the Task Force all the drugs included in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 are to be considered for price control. However, this is subject of subject to finalization of the Policy.

Unfare means of promotion of medical products by pharma companies

2917. SHRI UDAYPRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some pharma companies are distributing costly electronic items to the Chemists for promotion of their products and sending Doctors abroad for promotion of their medicines;

(b) if so, how many cases of such practices have been noticed and names of the pharma companies violating the Government norms for promotion of medicines; and

(c) what actions are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Privatisation of undertakings under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

†2918. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of undertakings under the control of his Ministry which have been privatized/disinvested;

(b) the undertaking-wise amount received by Government;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.